

Progress towards a New War Memorial for Edinburgh

The City of Edinburgh Council

16 October 2008

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the progress made on the development of a new war memorial for Edinburgh.

Main report

- 2 On 1 May 2008, Council approved the Chief Executive's recommendation to instruct officials from the Departments of Services for Communities, City Development and Corporate Services to work under the leadership of the Director of Corporate Services to commission the development of a design for a new war memorial in Edinburgh. It was agreed that this new war memorial would take the form of a memorial setting for individual memorials, based around the three listed shelters on the upper level of Princes Street Gardens West, and that it would function as a permanent Garden of Remembrance.
- 3 A cross-departmental working group, led by the Culture and Sport Division of Corporate Services, was established to consider the design brief for this Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens West. This brief has been further significantly informed through early consultation with Historic Scotland, Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, the Princes Street Development Advisory Group, the Scottish Veterans Association and the British Legion. Wider consultation will also be undertaken as part of the design process.
- 4 The procurement process to secure an appropriate design team to produce realistic plans is under way.
- 5 It is expected that the project management process will involve at least two main groups of advisors - a technical input group and a significant interest group - which will be recruited to reflect a wide range of interests. Input from both of these groups will inform the project management process throughout.
- 6 Council also instructed officials to work with potential partners to assess the viability of creating a memorial arboretum. The cross-departmental working group has considered a number of prospective sites for the arboretum. Discussions are ongoing to determine how this aspiration can best be achieved.

- 7 Design work on the Garden of Remembrance will start once the procurement process is complete. As soon as there is an indication of the likely costs of the Garden, a fundraising group will be established to seek mixed public and private funding to achieve the design. A number of parties in the initial consultations have already indicated that they would be prepared to help with the fundraising process.

Financial Implications

- 8 Council agreed on 1 May 2008 to commission a design for the memorial setting – in effect, a Garden of Remembrance – in Princes Street Gardens West at a cost of £20k. It was agreed that this revenue sum would be shared equally among the Departments of City Development, Corporate Services and Services for Communities.
- 9 The cost of creating a new war memorial for Edinburgh will not be known until a design has been produced. It is anticipated that the cost will be financed by public subscription or private initiative.

Environmental Impact

- 10 There are no adverse environmental impacts arising from this report.

Recommendations

- 11 It is recommended that Council:
- notes the good progress that has been made to date on this project; and
 - agrees that a formal announcement of progress should be made in connection with Armistice Day 2008.


Jim Inch
Director of Corporate Services

69/10/08

Appendices	None
Contact/tel/e-mail	Frank Little, Museums Manager, tel 529 3994 frank.little@edinburgh.gov.uk Dorothy Marsh, Senior Conservation Officer, tel 0131 556 9536 dorothy.marsh@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Single Outcome Agreement	Supports National Outcomes 12 "We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations" and 13 "We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity".
Background Papers	Report to the City of Edinburgh Council on 1 May 2008